

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Minutes – Weds., Sept 12, 2018, 7:30pm, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Present: Ed Trembly, John Ellis, Susan Stamps, Steve Moore, Mara Vatz, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden and 4 guests (Beth, George, Keith, Phil). Meeting called to order: 7:45pm

1. **Approve July and August Minutes.** July minutes Approved; August minutes approved with typo edit.
2. **Community Tree Canopy Program – (John).** 12 Hawthorne trees replaced by New England nurseries. Two that were not able to be delivered by them were delivered by Ed; he even helped plant one. All the payments have been submitted. Checks have not yet been deposited by DPW. A total of 52 trees planted as part of the program. The one unclaimed Oak was planted on public property on an intersection between Field road and Wildwood.
 - Mary Ellen to follow up to make sure payments are deposited.
 - Discussion of finding a new supplier for next season. RFQ is on dropbox to solicit other bids. Communication with NE nurseries is not ideal.

3. Community tree watering projects (Thompson, Scannell, ABGclub, Gibbs)

5 student volunteers, approximately 25 hours watering completed at Thompson, Scannell and Boys and girls club tennis courts. Not all Thompson trees are healthy some are from an earlier planting. Viking Landscaping will be hired to remove dead trees at Thompson

Gibbs trees, contractor <http://www.xquisitelandscaping.com/> to water until October, when contractor believes trees will be all set. Contractor believes the town will take over watering starting in October. Tim not aware of this additional responsibility

Town building supervisor Steven Nesterak believes watering responsibility will be given to school custodians and principals. Gibbs principal has not responded to inquiries. **Action: Eliza will put in a call to Steve Nesterak, town facilities Director to discuss making a plan for projects such as this.**

4. Town Day Planning

- Mary Ellen has materials and maps from last year, tree management plan will be printed and shown to booth visitors.
- Ed will have 10 small oak trees to give away, Eliza will provide some pots to Ed
- Mara suggested a laptop be used to allow people to submit tree requests at the booth

5. DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)

- New and current town projects involving trees:
 - Hardy School had tree removals when extension was built. New Trees will be planted on Chandler st. discussion of this impacts the landscape

plan. There was budget for replacement based on bylaw. **John** discussed coordination with planning firms (and the landscape project using CPA funds) and **will reach out to school coordinators**.

- Public input meeting about AHS rebuild on September 24. This meeting will focus on site planning and landscape concerns
 - **Tree watering/overtime.** DPW Tree Staff has been working overtime to water 2 hours a night, 10-12 trees are watered a night from a list of 200 spring/fall 2017 tree plantings, Tim continues to water the spring 2018 trees. A bigger pump on water truck might make watering faster; DPW looking into this.
 - **Tree hearing(s).** Monday Sept 17th : 24 Cypress road, resident wants to expand driveway by 3 feet to accommodate a new two car garage. Existing tree is a healthy Norway Maple. Some committee members considering objecting to this removal. Steve may file formal objection.
 - **Tree Bylaw** – We discussed the possibility of requiring public street trees to be included in a tree plan so a design can be approved based on location of street trees. Susan reported that last year's amendment to the bylaw amendment (increasing the removal rate to \$375 per inch) was approved by the AG on Aug 7, not clear if town clerk has posted it. Select board needs to set the new rate.
Susan will follow up with Select board.
 - One new treeplan (under the bylaw requirements) submitted 36/38 Washington St. 3 trees being removed, builder plans to replant 2 inch trees. DPW feels bylaw should change to require payment and remove the wording that gives people the option of replanting since many of these trees do not thrive due to neglect.
 - **Fall planting.** 150 trees to be planted this Fall, 100 bare root based on resident requests. Additionally, 10 will go to Thompson, 5 to mass ave, and the remaining 35 will be planted in tree zone 1 near hardy school. Spring 2019 100 requests will be in tree zone 2. Trees have been ordered. By planting in these "tree zones", the watering efforts will be streamlined. Large, medium and small species are selected. Tim will provide full list of species ordered to the committee. Trees will be hydro gelled to improve survivability. DPW considering more overtime, or full time watering staff during next growing season.
 - **High Priority Trees review.** Tim took 2.5 hours to inspect 35 trees (identified as 'high priority' in the tree management plan), many had deadwood which should be pruned. DPW considering using that list as basis for work order submission.
 - **Backlog of resident requests.** Approximately 100 prunings and 100 removals remain in the queue. DPW with help of contractors has made a big dent in the backlog which has existed historically.
6. **Procedures/policies for town projects and tree watering - (Susan/Tim)** At Sept 24 meeting the selectboard will review motion regarding the establishment of 2-year watering plans

7. **Gas Leaks Task Force Report (Susan).** National Grid has not been attending task force meetings. The DPW has submitted a purchase request to acquire a gas detector from Bascom Turner for testing planting pits. GIS map will include icon for pits with gas leak.
8. **Tree Bylaw update for 2019 Town Meeting.** Mary Ellen proposed a sub group to discuss the changes and review Concord bylaw. **Phil T, John, Mary Ellen, Susan to work on this.**
9. **Emerald Ash Borer.** Emerald ash borer detected in Somerville, and possible infection in Lexington. Winchester not taking action, Arlington developing plan. Cambridge treating ½ trees each year. Discussion of request to DPW to fund treatment of ash borer using values in part of the management plan. **Action: Mara will prepare letter to present the issue and to request funding. John will post to google group to have people look for borer.**

- **Adjourned 9:23pm**

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, October 10th